

News

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Delaware Emergency Management Agency **Issues Homeland Security Information**

To assist in preparedness and to raise awareness regarding homeland security activities, Delaware Emergency Management Agency reminds Delawareans that informational materials are available to the public.

A newly published Homeland Security Threat Level Guidelines and a booklet, "Family Emergency Preparedness," are both available on the agency web site, www.state.de.us/dema and in printed copy. For information on how to obtain the documents, call 302-659-2210.

Following the Feb. 7 announcement of the Homeland Security Threat Level increase from "Elevated" (Yellow) to "High" (Orange), officials of DEMA and the Department of Public Safety and Delaware Homeland Security Advisor Philip Cabaud recommend that the people of Delaware become familiar with the information in both booklets.

"People should not think that they must alter their lives or curtail activities," said Dept. of Public Safety Sec. James L. Ford, Jr. "Rather, they should increase their own security and that of the nation by being as informed as possible. The threat level guidelines give specific recommendations for actions according to the level of perceived threat."

Developed by DEMA planners and Cabaud, the guidelines are presented in a flip chart format with appropriate recommended actions listed as they apply to individuals, communities, schools, businesses or government entities. A User's Guide outlines the purpose of the booklet and describes the threat conditions that prompt implementation of appropriate actions.

The Family Emergency Preparedness booklet was introduced July, 2002, as support material for a multi-agency state program, Community Outreach – Operation Preparedness. The education and

demonstration program provides information to enable households to be secure and self-contained for at least three days.

Included in the booklet are recommendations for developing a family emergency plan and assembling a family emergency supply kit. Also listed is basic information on preparations for and recommended activities during storms, and information regarding potential terrorist threats.

Terrorism information is listed in categories such as “Biological or Chemical Threat,” “Water Supply Threat,” and “Hijacking Threat.” Basic recommended actions are included along with information regarding making a decision to evacuate or shelter in place.

In the event of sheltering in place, listed actions include picking **ONE** safe room where the emergency supply kit can be stored and the family can gather in case of the potential for outside air contamination.

According to DEMA Deputy Director Glenn Gillespie, emergency management and responder officials emphasize that plastic sheeting and duct tape are important items to include in the family emergency supply kit. However, they have many uses and should only be used to seal off doors and windows if emergency notification systems indicate the need.

This information is included in the DEMA publication, “Family Emergency Preparedness” as well as in publications issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Office of Homeland Security.

The DEMA booklet also lists emergency numbers and web sites for all counties. This booklet is also available in Spanish. For information on obtaining copies of “Family Emergency Preparedness,” call DEMA, 302-659-2210, or in-state toll free 877-729-3362, Sussex County Emergency Management, 302-855-7801, Kent County Emergency Management Agency, 302-735-3465, New Castle County Emergency Management, 302-573-2855. To request a Community Outreach – Operation Preparedness presentation, call 856-5818.

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